

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 IO-12 CU-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /088 W

----- 094667

R 031529 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7867

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 1075

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN GAMES

REF: CAPE TOWN A-27

PRETORIA 1015

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF SPORT DESCRIBES SA GAMES AS RACIAL BREAKTHROUGH AS GAMES CONTINUE WITHOUT INCIDENT, EXCEPT FOR NEWS THAT A PRETORIA HEADMASTER DECLARED GAMES OFF- LIMITS TO HIS STUDENTS.

2. ALTHOUGH SAG HAS UNTIL NOW CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY BUT MOST GUARDED REFERENCES TO " PROGRESS" (SEE REPAIR) WHEN SPEAKING ABOUT SA GAMES, MINISTER OF SPORT KOORNHOF QUOTED IN SUNDAY TIMES AS SAYING " THE SOUTH AFRICAN GAMES ARE ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT STEPS THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER TAKEN TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE COLOR LINE. THE GOODWILL THAT THESE GAMES HAVE GENERATED SPREADS NOT ONLY OVERSEAS BUT INTO OUR COUNTRY AS WELL... ACROSS THE COLOR LINE INTO ALMOST EVERY HOME IN SOUTH AFRICA".

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3. SOCCER AND BOXING TOURNAMENTS, TWO EVENTS FOR WHICH PRESS HAS PICTURED AUTHORITIES AS CONCERNED MIGHT INFLAME RACIAL ANIMOSITY, COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENT. ALL PAPERS, BUT ESPECIALLY AFRIKAANS PRESS DELIGHTED. "IT IS BLACK AGAINST WHITE -- AND ALL APPLAUD" HEADLINED THE OGGENBLAD, AND NOTED THAT WHEN SA AFRICAN FLYWEIGHT SKWEYIYA KNOCKED OUT RHODESIAN RAY ROWLEY IN FIRST ROUND, "BLACK AND WHITE CAME TO THEIR FEET AS ONE MAN". CONSERVATIVE TRANSVALER HEADLINED "BANTU FLATTENS A WHITE -- AND SPORT WINS". SUBSEQUENT BOUTS BETWEEN SA WHITE AND SA BLACK MET WITH SAME ENTHUSIASM.

4. HEADMASTER OF PRETORIA AFRIKAANS - MEDIUM SCHOOL UNDER HEAVY FIRE FOR SAYING AT SCHOOL ASSEMBLY THAT HE "DID NOT WANT TO SEE ANY (OF HIS) STUDENTS AT THE SA GAMES", (PRESUMABLY FOR ULTRA - CONSERVATIVE REASONS). PRESS REPORTS SEVERAL PARENTS SUBMITTED WRITTEN COMPLAINTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION, OTHERS THREATEN TO WITHDRAW CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL. INCIDENT PUBLICLY DENOUNCED BY, AMONG OTHERS, LOCAL NATIONAL PARTY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.
HURD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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